



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
215 Fremont Street  
San Francisco, Ca. 94105

12 MAR 1986

Mr. Peter Rogers  
Chief, Sanitary Engineering Branch  
Calif. Dept. of Health Services  
714 P Street, Room 600  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Enclosed for your review and comment is a copy of the Draft San Gabriel Supplemental Sampling Program (SSP) Report prepared by EPA's contractor, CH<sub>2</sub>M Hill. As you know, the primary purpose of the SSP was to obtain the best representation possible of the extent of ground water contamination through the use of data obtained from existing ground water wells in the basin. Sampling activities during the SSP were coordinated with the sampling activities conducted pursuant to Assembly Bill 1803 (AB 1803) to ensure that there would be no duplication of effort. The enclosed report summarizes the results of the SSP sampling, the AB 1803 program sampling, and other additional sampling that has been conducted in the San Gabriel Valley by DOHS, RWQCB, and local water purveyors. The results of the SSP will assist in the design of a cost-effective ground water monitoring well installation program that will be implemented during the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS).

In addition, I have also enclosed, for your information, an updated summary of the sampling results that were obtained for the 70 wells that were sampled by CH<sub>2</sub>M Hill during the SSP. EPA has also provided the individual well owners with the sampling results listed in this summary. Please be advised that several changes have been made to the data reported in the sampling results summary that was provided to you in my letter of December 26, 1985. These changes include: 1) deletion of reported positive findings for several organic compounds due to a reassessment of the quality assurance data associated with the analysis of field blanks; and 2) deletion of all reported results for the perchlorate ion analyses.

All perchlorate ion analysis results have been deleted due to an identified deficiency in the analytical method used. Examination of the laboratory method for perchlorate ion analysis revealed that the presence of nitrates at levels above 1 mg/l is known to interfere positively with perchlorate ion. Data concerning the presence of nitrates has been provided by the Sanitary Engineering Branch (SEB) for 10 of the 14 wells sampled for perchlorate ion. Nitrate levels ranged from 3.5 to 110 mg/l.

The concentrations of perchlorate ion reported by the laboratory were not corrected for the presence of nitrates. In addition, an assessment of the analytical method conducted by the Southern California Laboratory of DOHS concluded that the presence of several other ions ( $\text{Br}^-$ ,  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ , and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ) also interferes with the method. Therefore, the perchlorate data reported by the laboratory is considered invalid.

Please note that the draft report and sampling results are only being provided to the San Gabriel Management and Technical Committees at this time for review and comment. A draft report will be released to the public after this review is completed.

I have invited Tim Gannon and Gary Yamamoto of SEB's Santa Barbara and Los Angeles offices, respectively, to a joint meeting of the Management and Technical Committees scheduled for 1:00 P.M., March 27, 1986, at the offices of the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, 11310 East Valley Boulevard in El Monte, California, to discuss comments on the draft SSP Report. In addition, this meeting will also be used to provide the committees with an update of the status and schedule for Superfund activities in the San Gabriel Valley, clarify the roles that the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District and the committees will play during the San Gabriel RI/FS, and, if time allows, discuss EPA's proposed approach for conducting the RI/FS.

I request that SEB be prepared to discuss any comments concerning the draft report at the March 27 meeting or that written comments be submitted by that date. If you prefer, however, you may direct your comments and questions by telephone to Neil Ziemba at (415) 974-7520.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for the assistance provided to EPA by SEB staff, particularly, David Spath in your Berkeley office, and staff at the Department's Los Angeles and Berkeley laboratories in evaluating the significance of the results of the perchlorate ion analyses and the laboratory method used during the SSP to perform these analyses.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely yours,



Keith A. Takata  
Chief  
Superfund Programs Branch

Enclosures

cc: San Gabriel Management & Technical Committees